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Beiträge zur Kenntnis der altgriechischen Volkssprache. Von ERNST NACHMANSON. Skrifter utgifna af K. Humanistiska Vetenskaps-Samfundet i Uppsala, XIII, 4.

An extensive collection of "significant errors" in Greek inscriptions and papyri, mostly belonging to the general phenomena of assimilation and dissimilation between non-contiguous sounds. Especially where the sounds belong to different words, e.g., *Δάμπωνος* (= *Δάμπρωνος* as elsewhere in the same inscription) *ἐλεύθερον, μητὶ* (= *μητρὶ*) *Ἡρῶν*, etc., is the material almost wholly new, that is not previously brought together. Such cases are generally corrected by editors without comment. It is only when numerous examples of a similar character are brought together that their significance becomes undeniable. Yet it is still a delicate question how far these are errors in writing merely, and how far they reflect slips in speech. That "Schreibfehler vielfach bloss geschriebene Sprechfehler sind und dann auch dieselbe Regeln zeigen" the author quotes from Meringer. No one will doubt that this is often the case. But, so far as the reviewer's observation goes, the phenomena of assimilation, dissimilation, and transposition of non-contiguous sounds, while common enough in careless speech, are disproportionately common in careless writing.¹ A degree of inattention is possible in careless writing, especially copying, which is not equaled in careless speech. If this is so, the probability is that only a limited proportion of the examples collected by the author reflect actual slips of speech—that is, in the individual cases. But they illustrate phenomena which are also current in speech, and in that way, even when not more specifically, contribute to our knowledge of popular speech in Greece.

CARL D. BUCK

Gesammelte philologische Schriften. Von JOHANNES VAHLEN. Erster Teil: Schriften der Wiener Zeit, 1858–74. Leipzig: Teubner, 1911. Pp. viii+658. M. 14.

Professor Vahlen's Latin *prooemia indicibus lectionum praemissa* were published in 1907–8 under the title *Opuscula Academica*. In order to round out the edition of his *opuscula* it remained to gather together the briefer essays written in German. This is the purpose of the present work, the first half of which is here under notice. Absolute completeness is not proposed, but the omissions and the reasons therefore are noted in the author's preface. In the literary activity of a life so long and fruitful as that of Professor Vahlen some few items would naturally be of minor significance or of a character justifying exclusion on other grounds, and the sane

¹ Instances under this head which the reviewer has happened to note in his own writing and hereby contributes to the statistics of this class of errors, are: *psisolis* (*psilosis*), *insuralum* (*insularum*), *prece discussion* (*preceding discussion*).

judgment of the veteran critic may be safely trusted to exercise the proper discrimination. Another, realizing how much we all owe directly or indirectly to him, might find the task of choice embarrassing.

The matter presented is grouped under twenty-eight heads, having regard to subjects and authors rather than to chronology. The authors of whom the essays treat are Alcidas, Aristotle, Gorgias, Lycophron, Plato, and Polycrates, among the Greeks; among Latin authors, Cicero, Ennius, Fronto, Horace, Livy, Minucius Felix, Plautus, Seneca Rhetor, Valerius Maximus, and Varro. The range of authors incidentally discussed or cited by way of illustration is very wide—just how wide we shall best be able to judge from the index which is to accompany the second part. All who know Professor Vahlen either from his academic lectures or from his publications—and who does not?—are familiar with his method, the method of Lachmann, which relies solely upon a most meticulous and discriminating observation of linguistic usage. Such critical resources are to be acquired only by extensive and attentive reading, having constant regard to the MS tradition in distinction from the “normalized” tests which are the bane of scholarship.

It is a pleasure to find united here, among other essays of equal worth and interest, Professor Vahlen's earlier studies on the *Rhetoric* and *Poetics* of Aristotle, on Cicero, and on the literary *Epistles* of Horace. Scarcely less valuable, because they deserve to rank as models, are a few reviews, such as those of Bonitz' *Index Aristotelicus* and of Schanz's *Novae Commentationes Platonicae*. They are not perfunctory notices, meting out summary praise or blame, but are genuine tests—if criticism may be so defined—affording the reader an opportunity of determining the worth of the work under review with reference to a sufficient number of questions taken up in detail. Thus the review becomes a contribution to the subject in hand and should serve as a warning to the scholar, if he would but heed the much needed warning, to beware of uncritically accepting a conclusion because it is recommended by the authority of a reputed expert.

After a lapse of thirty-seven years and more, it were folly to discuss the individual contributions contained in the present volume. Every classical scholar must take account of them when he deals with the subjects in question; and for men of the present generation the matter has in most cases been predigested in the newer Greek and Latin grammars or in the critical editions of the several ancient authors. But this does not imply that even they who have slight regard for the history of classical studies may content themselves with such trititates. Professor Vahlen's work will long continue to serve as a model of the science and art of interpretation. To those who, like the writer, had the good fortune to be imbued in youth with the spirit of this master, as it was manifested in seminar and lecture-room, the body of essays here collected, thoroughly grounded in vital learning and perfectly poised in method, are at once, like all ideals, an inspiration and a rebuke.

Others, only less fortunate in that they have profited by his publications and by the spreading influence of the master upon other teachers, will join in the rejoicing of his pupils that it has been granted him to continue far beyond the proverbial three score years and ten his fruitful activity as teacher and author, and lives to crown it with a worthy monument, in which he sums up and enshrines it all.¹

W. A. HEIDEL

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Travels and Studies in the Nearer East (Cornell Expedition to Asia Minor and the Assyro-Babylonian Orient). Vol. I, Part II, Hittite Inscriptions, by A. T. OLMSTEAD, B. B. CHARLES, J. E. WRENCH.

The members of the Cornell Expedition to Asia Minor have rendered a most excellent service to scholars in preparing what will undoubtedly be for many years the standard edition of the Hittite hieroglyphic inscriptions. Everyone knows how rapidly such inscriptions are disappearing before the ravages of time—and natives with an eye for the artistic possibilities of inscribed stones for the decoration of the walls of their houses and mosques. Every effort, therefore, to obtain more accurate copies of what still remains of these inscriptions deserves the highest praise. Without doubt the full value of this work, as well as its faults, will become apparent when we finally have a key for the decipherment of the Hittite hieroglyphs. It is most regrettable that the members of the expedition did not make use of some of the simple devices of the photographer for the regulation of the amount of light and the direction of its fall upon the surfaces to be photographed. As a result, the photographs of the inscriptions afford little or no help in determining the accuracy of the copies which this work has put at the disposal of scholars.

D. D. LUCKENBILL

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

XAPITEΣ Friedrich Leo zum sechzigsten Geburtstag dargebracht. Berlin: Weidmann'sche Buchhandlung, 1911. Pp. 490.

It would be more gracious to extend greetings to the distinguished scholar than to review the substantial volume which his pupils of the last two decades now offer him as the fruits of his instruction. By written as well as spoken word Leo has been a potent influence in this country; many Americans would be glad to join in the general congratulations.

The volume testifies to the broad interests of the master; a few fields of knowledge are represented only by a single article: linguistics in H. Jacob-

¹ Since these words were written report has been received of the death of Professor Vahlen, November 30, 1911.